(a) whether it is a fact that a number of hydro-electricity projects of Karnataka are pending environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects and the reasons for the delay in clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No hydro-electric project from Karnataka is pending for environmental clearance.

Reorganisation of O. N. G. C.

509. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for reorganisation the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) as suggested by the international funding bodies with a view to achieve better results; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISETR OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No decision to reorganise ONGC has been taken by the Government.

Air Pollution

510. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute, to the effect that Air Pollution has assumed such alarming proportions, in several cities and rural areas, that the air in Bombay is as harmful as smoking ten cigarettes a day;

(b) whether Government have formulated any long-term plan to countenance this menace in the metropolitan cities and to educate the general public of its ill-effects; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The statement is qualitative in nature and does not appear to be based on any scientific studies comparing air quality levels and cigarette smoking carried out either in Bombay or in the other metropolitan cities.

(b) and (c) According to the ambient air quality survey, the air pollution levels in our metropolitan cities are, by and large, within the prescribed limits. While the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the limits, the particulate matter is on the higher side. This is due to natural dusty conditions and industrial activities including thermal power plants. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has monitored carbon monoxide levels at traffic junctions in Bombay. It is observed that the carbon monoxide levels at the traffic junctions were found in the range of 8.2 to 20.3 ppm. These higher levels are due to heavy traffic of automobiles. However, the ambient air quality levels of carbon monoxide in the residential areas are well within the limits. However, from smoking, the carbon monoxide exposure is of several orders of magnitude over the levels that have been found at various traffic junctions in Bombay. 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent/emission standards by 31-12-1991. Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The